AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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VOL. 4. NO. 19 WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 1914. WHOLE NO. 175

INSIST ON

Knowing where your Senators in Congress stand on Labor's amendments to the anti-trust laws. You have a right to know.

HELP THE MINERS.

Local unions are urged to give prompt financial aid to the striking coal miners of Colorado.

PRESIDENT WOULD END WAR

Washington, Aug. 8.—President Wilson has offered his good offices to mediate in the European war situation, and has forwarded the following message to the Emperor of Germany, Czar of Russia, Emperor of Austria-Hungary, President of France, and the King of England:

"As official head of one of the powers signatory to The Hague convention, I feel it to be my privilege and my duty, under article 3 of that convention, to say to you in the spirit of most earnest friendship that I should welcome an opportunity to act in the interest of European peace, either now or at any time that might be thought more suitable, as an occasion to serve you and all concerned in a way that would afford me lasting cause for gratitude and happiness."

Senator McCumber introduced a resolution in the Senate authorizing the President to offer to settle the European war by mediation. The North Dakota Senator declared that the United States is practically the only world power not involved in the European crisis.

In an interview in this city Vice President Marshall said he had no fear of actual war, because nations, like individuals, cannot maintain great armies without being tempted to use them.

"When we consider that we have started out to build a great navy and that payments and obligations and preparations for future pensions has absorbed 62 per cent of the income, the suggestions for public sentiment of America will soon or late drive us to arbitration," he said.

CHEAPEST NON-UNION WORKERS.

Detroit, Aug. 8.—"Detroit has the cheapest nonunion cigar factories in the United States—a downtrodden class of cigar workers, overcrowded, underpaid, overworked, who have nothing to say as to what they should receive in wages, hours or working conditions," declared Cigarmakers' and Packers' union, No. 22, in a circular issued for the purpose of creating public sentiment against the practices of cigar manufacturers.

A Detroit paper is quoted as saying that the "baby death rate in Detroit is 122 in 1,000, which is 40 per cent higher than that of New York city, with its miles of tenement houses."

The cigarmakers continue:

"The half-grown girl laborer and child bearer, the hand that rocks the cradle, will be found working in these nonunion cigar traps. These money owners have made their pile of gold from cheap labor. They are all against the union shop and union conditions. They will not allow cigar girls to work in their cigar factories and body to the labor union. But in spite of them, there will come an uprising of cigar girls for their American right to belong to the labor union."

WAR WON'T HELP BUSINESS.

New York, Aug. 8.—War will not benefit American people, is the view of "T. C. Van Antwerp, editor of the publication of the New York Stock Exchange and recognised as one of its most authoritative spokesmen.

"It is my belief," he said, "that the war would result in inestimable harm. The man who thinks otherwise is in my opinion, wrong. Take the effect of wheat, for instance. Every single citizens of this country be if the price of wheat went to $2 a bushel?

"Prices would go up here as well as in Europe, and people here would suffer. The cost of living is high enough now.

"American securities would be the only ones that would be salable in the world and every one who wanted to raise money would sell them. This would have a bad effect on the market."

DEPLORES WAR.

Washington, Aug. 8.—A resolution "deeply deprecating the European war and expressing the hope that a speedy cessation of hostilities" was introduced in the United States Senate by Senator Gallinger.

The resolution as adopted was as follows:

"The Senate of the United States, dedicating itself to the principles of peace and good will among men, deeply deprecates the war between certain European powers, and expresses the earnest hope that existing differences may be speedily adjusted, to the end that the fearful destruction of human life and the great waste of property may be averted."

FEAR POPULAR GOVERNMENT.

Washington, Aug. 8.—Underlying the great war in Europe is the desire of the monarchists to prevent their thrones being overturned by the rising tide of the movement for popular government, is the opinion of United States Senator Cummins. The Iowa Senator said he believed there was under the surface much as to the causes of the war that had not been explained. He said that with the sentiment now existing in favor of popular government he could not help feeling that some of the monarchies of Europe thought it would tend to destroy the masses if they were plunged into war.

TO OPPOSE COMPENSATION LAW.

New York, Aug. 8.—The Southern Pacific Railroad company has served notice on the state workmen's compensation commission that it will make a test case in the authority of the state of a commission to make awards for injuries to the longshoremen in its employ. The law took effect July 1. The company insists that it is an interstate carrier and its employes are engaged in interstate commerce; that if those employes are not covered by the Federal laws they are not covered at all.

RECOGNIZE THE A. F. OF L.

Wilmington, Del., Aug. 8.—A. F. of L. Organizer Eichelberger assisted local unionists and the Women's Federal Union, No. 14,981, in securing a two years' agreement with the Bond Bottle Sealing company, which provides for an eight-hour day, a minimum rate of $2.50 per week and a maximum of $21. An arbitration clause is inserted and the company agrees to the organization of the plant under A. F. of L. conditions.

FLINT OFFICIAL DEAD.

Toledo, Ohio, Aug. 8.—Vice President Croke of the American Flint Glass Workers' union, died in this city after a protracted illness. He had formerly been president at the recent convention of his union at Rochester, Pa., and Joseph Gillooly, of Toledo, was elected temporary vice president during the illness of deceased.

BURNS RESIGNS.

London, Aug. 8.—John Burns, the well-known Laborite, who is president of the local government board, has resigned his position because he is in disagreement with the government's war policy.

A "STRETCHING" BUSINESS.

Akron, Ohio, Aug. 8.—A statement of earnings by the F. St. Frederick Rubber company shows a net gain of $1,021,197 for the first six months of the year.

TO GUARD WORKERS' LIVES

Washington, Aug. 8.—The Senate Committee on Education and Labor has reported favorably the bill to create a bureau of labor and safety in the Department of Labor. This bill has been approved by the House and is now on the Senate's calendar.

The bill provides for the investigation and examination of labor and safety plans and devices of all kinds, and also the study of devices and methods for the prevention of vocational diseases, and to make public, from time to time, the results of such investigation. A museum for the exhibition of all safety devices is also provided for. Herein will be shown approved devices for the safeguarding of machinery, the protection of employes from injury, the lessening of dangerous conditions, and the methods of lessening, preventing and controlling industrial diseases. A laboratory will test the relative value of types of guards and other devices for the protection of life and machinery.

The bill was introduced in the House by Representative Lewis, union miner, and member of the Labor group. It was in committee three years. Commissioner by Representative Bremner (deceased) and Representative Mann. A report on this bill by the Committee on Labor, October, written by Representative Lewis, was referred to by the Senate committee as follows: "It covers the ground so admirably that we reproduce it in the words and figures following."

The American Federation of Labor has urged this question, and at the Seattle convention the Executive Council said:

"Whatever the cause, workers generally are now interested in methods of safeguarding their employes. There is a greater demand for information of the methods and devices that produce the best results. In order to meet this demand it is proposed to establish a Bureau of Labor Safety. The scope of the work of this bureau should be to investigate the accident preventives; it should include methods to eliminate industrial diseases. A great injury to humanity is caused through needlessly and carelessly permitting workers to be poisoned by white lead, injured by excessive heat, make to berculosis by dusts, diseased, and stulted by working conditions that could be avoided."

ANTI-CHILD LABOR LOGIC.

Atlanta, Aug. 8.—In a strong speech urging the adoption of the Sheppard child labor bill, Representative Oliver, of Richmond county, said:

"The financial interests that control the marketing of cotton have discovered that cotton products can be manufactured on the hands of a child labor basis. The wages paid to the child mean low prices for the producer of cotton. The low prices for nonfarm goods also in part predicated on the cost of production, and this cost of production was established on the basis of child labor. The commercial world took cognizance of child labor, and when the question of amending the Illinois State constitution, providing for the initiative, referendum and recall.

President Walker advises: "Big business and their allies expect by sophistry, trickery, fraud, and outright bribery by cash to accomplish their purpose. Every union man who is opposed to these things being done, be sure he does not cast either in the primaries or regular election for a man that they have the faintest suspicion might favor them or be influenced by any means, to vote for them."

TO VOTE ON CHILD LABOR BILL

Atlanta, Aug. 8.—Organized labor and other opponents of child labor are making every effort to make converts to their cause among state senators, who will shortly vote on the Sheppard child labor bill, which has been approved by the representatives. The bill prohibits the employment of any child under the age of fourteen or less than sixteen, unless they have attended school twelve weeks during the year previous to the time of such employment, and unless they can read and write.

FEAR FOR STEEL TRADE.

Pittsburgh, Aug. 8.—Steel men in this district are concerned for the future of the export steel trade. Leading officials of all the largest steel companies admit that a general European war would kill the sale of steel to foreign countries. The reason for this assertion is that steel will, in all probability, be considered contraband of war, which would make it unsafe to ship.

STOP STRIKE OF 18,000.

Scranton, Aug. 8.—Officials of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western railroad have notified their miners that they are ready to meet the district union officers, and the threatened strike has been declared off. The workers are objecting to the new patrol system of safety, and insist on the adjustment of machine mining wages.

PAINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Concord, Mass., Aug. 8.—Painters in this city have raised wages from 40 cents to 45 1-2 cents an hour without a strike.

LET THERE BE NO MURKY ZONE

Trade unionists and sympathizers should insist that there be no uncertainty or double construction in the labor sections of the Clayton anti-trust bill, when finally approved by the Senate.

The United States Supreme Court has turned back the tide of "class legislation" protests, raised against this bill, by a unanimous decision in the State of Missouri-International Harvester Company case. With one sweep the Court silences the well-known cry of Big Business, which now knows that a legislature may pass an anti-trust law and not include organizations of workers.

With their favorite weapon flung from their grasp, Special Privilege has been forced to abandon this feature of its campaign. Even newspapers, heretofore vigilant and alert to "the danger of class legislation," no longer raise the issue.

The United States Supreme Court has paved the way for labor's freedom in this epoch-making decision which has forced our opponents to adopt stealthy methods in denying justice to the workers.

Trade unionists should take advantage of this decision, and insist, with increasing vigor, that their respective Senators vote for the Clayton bill as approved by the House, which not only guarantees the freedom of labor and farmers' organizations from the anti-trust law, but also prevents abuses of the writ of injunction and provides jury trials for alleged charges of indirect contempt.

When this legislation is finally adopted there must be no murky zone between human rights and property rights. The line must be clear-cut and distinct. There is no middle course in the battle for freedom and in the effort of man to live his own life.

Liberty is a thing of fact, not a matter of terms or empty phrases. If men are ruled by judge-made edict, or their organizations exist by court sufferance, can they be said to be free? Can workers live the lives of normal men, struggling upward for higher and better things, while the dead hand of court-made law and injunction rule denies them rights accorded others?

Is the worker's liberty, absolute and complete, a subject for judge decision, when "business," "dollars" and "trade" are involved?

The workers can change their standing before the legislative and judicial bar by creating public opinion, through resolutions, letters and mass meetings. Various states are already indorsing the position of trade unionists on this question. The recently adopted anti-injunction law of Massachusetts declares:

In construing this act, the right to enter into the relation of employer and employe, to change that relation, and to assume and create a new relation between for employer and employe, and to perform and carry on business in such relation with any person in any place, to work and to cease to work or to employe, shall be held and construed to be a personal and not a property right.

Mr. Justice Burch, of the Kansas Supreme Court (Caspar vs. Lewin, 82 Kan. 604) made this declaration:

Steam and electricity have revolutionized manufacturing industries so marvelously that no vestige of former conditions remains. The relation of factory workers' environment has completely changed, the common-law rights and remedies have remained unchanged. It has been well understood for a long time that there is no juristic or economic excuse for this state of affairs.

Let workers take advantage of the new social sentiment and demand that the Senate pass, at this session of Congress, the House labor sections of the Clayton bill.

Insist to your United States Senators that there be no murky zone in this bill.

Do not postpone action. Obey your impulse today.

ISSUES WARNING TO LABOR

Springfield, Ill., Aug. 8.—President Walker, of the Illinois State Federation of Labor, has issued a warning to labor that certain interests are at work to control the next State legislature, for the purpose of repealing or modifying, as they will be ineffective, unconstitutional, the miners' qualification law, and the compensation law, and to block the adoption of a resolution, submitting to the people, for them to vote upon it, the question of amending the Illinois State constitution, providing for the initiative, referendum and recall.

President Walker advises: "Big business and their allies expect by sophistry, trickery, fraud, and outright bribery by cash to accomplish their purpose. Every union man who is opposed to these things being done, be sure he does not cast either in the primaries or regular election for a man that they have the faintest suspicion might favor them or be influenced by any means, to vote for them."

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GIRL WORKER TALKS PLAIN

Chicago, Aug. 8.—A denial of self government in the workshop results in unrest, said Miss Agnes Nestor, of the Glovemakers' union, in answer to a query by the Federal Commission on Industrial Relations.

"Where workers have nothing to say about their working conditions, we naturally find unrest," she declared. "Anywhere in government where people haven't a chance to voice their grievances or help in methods of procedure they have adopted," said Secretary Spencer. "Our rules provide that all complaints will be taken first to the primary purpose of ascertaining the substantial justice of the parties in the least possible delay. Neither the commission nor any of its subordinate boards will be bound by the strict law of evidence or by technical or formal rules of procedure. Our first duty is to give relief to the workmen and to the families of laborers killed or hurt at once, as soon after injury or death as possible.

PRESIDENT AVERTS STRIKE.

Washington, Aug. 8.—The committee of managers of the ninety-five railroads, trades, and firemen had voted to strike, have yielded to President Wilson's request that they accept the federal mediation board's plan of arbitration. This had already been accepted by the workers.

The mediation board's plan is that the managers withdraw their demand for the abolition of the eight-hour law in abrogation of the present rules, which have obtained on their roads for many years, and that the controversy down to the question of the demanded rates in wages for the equivalent which will be submitted to arbitration.

SAY VICTORY IS IN SIGHT.

Freeport, Ill., Aug. 8.—The striking carpenters have accepted the compromise submitted by Judge Hurd, of the Circuit Court, and it is predicted this will soon be ended. Over 1,000 carpenters are drawing strike benefits out of 180 who were originally involved. The injunction against the strikers has been dissolved, with the contractors ordered to pay the men. It is believed this decision has been a factor in the peace movement.

TO PUBLISH RECORDS.

Columbus, Ohio, Aug. 8.—At a meeting of the executive board of the Ohio Federation of Labor it was decided to prepare, conjunction with the railroad brotherhoods, a pre-primary bulletin giving complete records of candidates for United States Senator, Governor of the Supreme Court, and other state officers. The state convention meets in Youngstown, August 12, and a record attendance is predicted.

EVILS OF "TIPPING" SYSTEM.

Chicago, Aug. 8.—Miss Elisabeth Maloney, business agent of the Waitresses' union, told the Federal Commission on Industrial Relations that her organization was unconditionally against the "tipping" system. She declared that when a girl depends on tips for her wages she is pretty hard to draw the line of propriety and the waitress sometimes cannot afford to resent familiarity with her patrons.

UNIONISTS GET RESULTS.

Philadelphia, Aug. 8.—The local "labor forward" wave has reached Providence, R. I., and when the A. F. of L. convention is called to order in this city next September the number of delegates will have been increased by thousands. The committee in charge of this attempt to spread the gospel of trade unionism says their efforts are meeting with unexpected success.

WOULD WIPE OUT FIRE TRAPS.

San Francisco, Aug. 8.—Timothy A. Reardon, president of the Board of Public Works, and a prominent trade unionist, said on account of the fire horror in the Insanitary fire traps used to isolate houses in San Francisco's Chinatown must be torn down. Reardon declared that all such buildings houses must go. He is advocating a municipally owned lodging house that will be a model of its kind.

TO ORGANIZE THE SOUTH.

Galveston, Aug. 8.—President Price, of the Gulf coast district, predicts that the southern section of the country will be quickly organized by the International Longshoremen's association. Price is in charge of the campaign.

WESTERN UNIONISTS ALERT

Stockton, Cal., Aug. 8.—A mass meeting of trade unionists and sympathizers packed the largest theater in this city from pit to dome to hear representatives of organized workers present their views of the employers' lockout in this city. The principal address was delivered by General President McCarthy of the California State Building Trades Council.

Other speakers were Secretary Scharrenberg, of the State Federation of Labor; Secretary Cruickshank, of the San Francisco Labor Council; Vice President Hannon, of the International Association of Machinists, and Editor Richardson, of the Richmond Daily News. The latter stated he was not a unionist—did not carry a card, but he had taken up the unions' cause because he believed these institutions were the best economical proposition in the United States today. He prophesied that if the workers lost their fight within two months merchants would be crying that there was no business and no money.

"It's a fight in behalf of every American working man," said Richardson. "You're between the devil and the deep sea and the only thing to do is to fight because fighting is much better than swimming as a prolonged occupation."

The meeting was the most enthusiastic one and Stockton unionists were promised the assistance of 50,000 California organized workers. Assessments are now being collected throughout the State.

The International Typographical Union has checked the attempts of the manufacturers to force the newspapers into their combine with the local printers' union that the wages of their members will be paid if a move of this kind is made.

ANTI-FAT CURES ARE FAKES.

Washington, Aug. 8.—Beware of so-called anti-fat "cures" is the warning of the Department of Agriculture. In response to inquiries as to specific remedies.

"After tests, the department says, virtually all such preparations are worthless. "In the twenty-one of drug examined not at the present time," it is asserted, "there is no preparation that can be depended upon to reduce fat to a marked degree without doing injury." Specialists of the department say the only ways to get rid of flesh are dieting and exercise.

Letters urging prevention of the sale of the preparations have been received, but the department asserts that is impossible "for the reason that the claims upon the packages are purposely so guarded as to evade action."

DISCARD RED TAPE.

New York, Aug. 8.—Red tape will not be fashionable in the office of the Workmen's Compensation Commission of this state.

"That the commission will expedite the awarding of claims in every possible way, and that the methods of procedure they have adopted," said Secretary Spencer. "Our rules provide that all hearings will be held first for the primary purpose of ascertaining the substantial justice of the parties in the least possible delay. Neither the commission nor any of its subordinate boards will be bound by the strict law of evidence or by technical or formal rules of procedure. Our first duty is to give relief to the workmen and to the families of laborers killed or hurt at once, as soon after injury or death as possible.

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WORKER URGES SEA SAFETY

Washington, Aug. 8.—Representative Buchanan, member of the House Labor group, and ex-president of the International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers, took occasion to deliver a vigorous plea for safety at sea and protection to sailors while the House was considering a bill "to provide for the admeasurement of vessels built within American registry for the foreign trade."

The trade unionists effort was in intelligent defense of the workers' cause, and was an able presentation of the seamen's bill. He said, in part:

"Mr. Speaker, further reserving this right to object, I want to say that, in my judgment, this bill protects the liberties and the life of the working people on the seaside of sea, and also protecting the life of the public is an emergency. No doubt we shall pass this measure that will give the shipowners of the world an opportunity to collect a war rate, and still they want to employ cheap foreign seamen, and have other privileges that they have had in the past. One of the privileges they have had is that being under the American flag is that they want to employ those foreign employees for less than the wages that is paid so cheaply. We have neglected to equalize that by not passing the seamen's bill, which we have passed three times in one year ago, and still we talk about the necessity of an emergency when other things come up for the profit of the financial pirates of the country that want to take advantage of the low tariff condition; and now it is said that the protection of the life and liberty of the working people on the seaside of the local ports of the public is not an emergency. Such an argument does not stand up to me at all, and I want to say that unless there is some understanding that we are going to pass a bill that has a trailing public, in my judgment, this measure will be defeated until such time as gentlemen are ready to consider such a measure to protect the working people on the seaside of the world traveling public, unless it is only the profit of the profit-seeking corporations and of the international financial pirates of the country that speaks to this body here.

"The object of this bill has three purposes: First, freedom of the seamen; second, safety of life at sea; third, to create a condition under which an American merchantile marine may be built up without a subsidy.

"Foreign and American shipowners are opposing it, first, through domestic agitation, using for this purpose chambers of commerce, merchants' exchanges, maritime exchanges, boards of trade, and other organizations of like character; second, through shipowners' meetings in European countries, condemning legislation before the American Congress, and calling upon their own governments to intervene with their consuls and through proper diplomatic channels. Shipowners say that the legislation is unconstitutional, that it is class legislation, tending from safety, imposing a useless number of boats, an unreasonable number of men, and so forth. It will increase the cost of transportation. Those who favor the bill say that it will tend toward the preservation of seamanship, for safety, in the interest of national defense, and increased efficiency in the personnel and skill; that boys are attracted and men are induced to leave the sea, with the growing number of disasters, with the great losses to human life. They point to the fact of the increasing and increasing employment of Orientals at sea, and that this can have but one result, the dominance of the sea by the Oriental.

SIGN MINE WAGE SCALE.

Columbus, Ohio, Aug. 8.—About 12,000 miners are affected by a new two-years' agreement signed by the operators and miners in the Hocking district. The scale is based on the rate of 67 and 67.5 cents on mine-run coal, with 10 cents for screened coal. The nine-hour day and a minimum wage of $2.22 cents a day and shorter hours for the engineers and firemen. The minimum rate of monthly men has been fixed at $2.84, instead of $2.64 a day. Aged miners who are working as trappers will not receive less than $2.22 a day.

Miners and operators at the different mines will decide upon what basis they will work until the new scale has been remodeled to comply with the Green anti-screen law.

WE ARE EVERY DEMAND.

Los Angeles, Aug. 8.—Garment Workers Union No. 125 has won every demand made on the P. A. Newmark Comany in the settlement of the strike that bitter seventeen months' strike has been declared off. The agreement provides that only union labor shall be employed. To give those who went out on strike the preference, and the company shall sign a satisfactory agreement until the union presented.

All who remained at work when the strike was called shall pay a sum equivalent to what the union dues would have amounted to for that length of time, together with half of the strike assessment levied in March of last year. Those who did not remain at work and who went to work since the date of the calling of the strike are to be admitted to the garment industry without paying dues at the regular initiation fee.

MAKE GOOD SETTLEMENT.

Indianapolis, Aug. 8.—President White, of the United Mine Workers, declared that the settlement, dated Kansas City:

"After the most bitterly fought contest which ever occurred, joint wage conferences reached an agreement last night. The agreement establishes compulsory check-off, the eight-hour day clause was amended in favor of the miners. Several other changes of material value to the miners were made. The agreement was unanimously adopted. District conferences with the miners immediately. It is a bright outlook for permanent peace in the Southwest and great victory for the mine workers."

SIGN NEW WAGE SCALE.

Boston, Aug. 8.—The joint executive board of the Stereotypers' and Steamotypers' Helpers' Union, of Boston, has signed a new three years' scale with their employers to take effect when both parties come to an agreement regarding the new working rules. The agreement provides for $24 a day to be paid for the first year and $1 a day more for the second year, leaving it was agreed by the board to aid the helpers' union in its efforts to secure wages in other cities.

THE END OF AMOUNS.

Denver, Aug. 8.—It is agreed by operators attending that the end of the Amoun system of mining coal is in sight. The failure of many county conventions to elect delegates to the convention to be held here in October has so discouraged the Amoun leaders that they have practically given up the fight.

WAR WOULD DETRACT ATTENTION FROM SOCIAL CONDITIONS, SAYS PRESIDENT GOMPERS, IN TALK ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

Washington, Aug. 8.—"War, with its supposed pomp and heroism, is inaugurated by Austrian royalty to divert the people's attention from their own ills and their honest, intelligent course to remedy these ills," declared President Samuel Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor, in an interview on European affairs published last week in a Washington newspaper, which says:

"Mr. Gompers five years ago spent five months in Europe and countries investigating labor conditions and personal observation of Austria-Hungary conditions forms the foundation for his indictment today of Austria.

"Gompers is criticised by the labor leader for its failure to second the proposal of the British government in declaring for a 'naval holiday,' and he expresses doubt as to the course the masses of people in Europe will pursue in regard to this unnatural, unjustified, and unholy war.

"Discussing labor conditions in Austria, Mr. Gompers said: 'Child women were employed there as bodasfriers and in numerous other menial tasks at a wage ranging from 30 to 40 cents a day. He said their home life was a kennel-like existence, numerous families being huddled together in small houses.

"'War under any circumstances is to be deplored,' said Mr. Gompers. 'A war begun by Austria for the supposed causes ought to be condemned, condemned by every liberty-loving and humanitarian people the world over.

"'For the glory and the aggrandizement of an effete royalty, men are to be arrayed against each other to kill men, to create conditions widows and orphans, to destroy property and entail increased taxation upon the masses of the people, even after the war shall have ended.

"'In Austria, as in all Europe, the masses of the people are bent upon dealing with constructive movements for the material, economic, political, and social improvement. Under royal prerogative, war, with its supposed pomp and heroism, is inaugurated to divert the people's attention from their own ills and their honest, intelligent course to remedy these ills.'

"The American Federation of Labor urged our Congress to adopt that policy, and, upon direction of our Seattle convention, I communicated the official resolutions of labor of the various countries and urged them to prevail upon their respective governments to adopt the 'naval holiday' policy, and they clearly showed that they had taken the matter with their respective governments, but, inasmuch as our American Congress had not completed the expression of the United States, the influence upon their governments was minimized.

"There is no telling yet what course the masses of the people of Europe are going to pursue in regard to this unnatural, unjustified, and unholy war. These men do not lack patriotism, but the people can no longer ruthlessly, and to serve the purpose of perpetuating an effete royalty, sacrifice their lives and their beings and to entail burdensome taxation for their posterity as an offering to monarchs and aristocrats. This is the spirit toward the democratization of the people's rights in their respective countries."